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Resolution Endorsing the Model Interconnection Agreement and Procedures

WHEREAS, The Resolution to Adopt Full and Open Access Rules for Distributed Generation Technologies and to Remove Regulation Barriers and Promote "Best Practices" That Encourage Economic Deployment of Distributed Generation Technologies, adopted at the Summer Meeting on July 26, 2000, reviewed the many and substantial benefits and potential benefits of Distributed Generation and Distributed Energy Resources, and also set forth the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC's) many prior resolutions and actions in support of Distributed Energy Resources; and

WHEREAS, Several State legislatures and State Commissions have addressed utility specific requirements for interconnection to electric power systems for the safe and reliable operation of distributed generation technologies; and

WHEREAS, Prior resolutions have recognized that coordination among the States could improve the consistency of treatment so important to the efficient integration of distributed energy resources; and

WHEREAS, Increased national consistency will lower entry barriers and enhance business economic efficiency, yet overly prescriptive national standards would fail to allow for real differences among States, utilities, and customers, and the ready availability of NARUC developed model agreements and procedures will aid in balancing those concerns; and

WHEREAS, The preparation of model interconnection agreement and procedures by NARUC could provide significant support and efficiencies to those States which have yet to address the challenges of distributed energy resources, and the consideration, adaptation or adoption of such models could provide material assistance in achieving the coordination among the States called for by previous resolutions; and

WHEREAS, NARUC adopted a Resolution Endorsing the Development of Model Interconnection Agreement and Procedures at its February 2002 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C. endorsing the development of a model interconnection agreement and procedures under the direction of its Committees on Electricity, Energy Resources and the Environment and Finance and Technology; and

WHEREAS, The resolution requested that the process begin with the review and synthesis of the significant accomplishments of those States which have already addressed, or have begun the process of addressing the issues and challenges presented by distributed energy resources and their access and interconnection to State jurisdictional electric power systems; and

WHEREAS, A Working Group of Commissioners and staff was established, which - with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory - created a model interconnection agreement and procedures which was, for the most part, compiled from the "best practices" of States that had previously held fully open, fair proceedings to address interconnections of

distributed energy resources; and

WHEREAS, The model interconnection agreement and procedures were widely distributed to the State commissions and industry stakeholders and comments have been received and reviewed by the Working Group, who incorporated suggestions into the model that were consistent with the intent of the model and previously adopted State distributed generation products; and

WHEREAS, The Working Group has taken the extra step to prepare a complete reference package to start a State proceeding that includes not only the model interconnection agreement and procedures but also an explanation of the policy decisions required before an individual State adopts an interconnection process along with examples of how other States have solved the policy issues and includes the comments received during this development process; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its July 2002 Summer Meetings in Portland, Oregon, recommends use of the model interconnection agreement and procedures developed by the Working Group as a resource when and if a State pursues the establishment of a distributed energy resource interconnection process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) prepare a subsequent document that would outline policy issues and discuss those decision points related to State implementation of distributed generation interconnection; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board appreciates the efforts of the Working Group members who produced the model interconnection agreement and procedures in an expedited effort to ensure that these materials were available in a timely manner, and that the Board appreciates the State Commissions for devoting staff time to this significant effort to assist other States. The Board especially acknowledges and appreciates the leadership of staff members Jan Karlak (Ohio PUC), Diane Barney (New York PSC), and Lou Ann Westerfield (Idaho PUC) on this project.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity, the Committee on Finance and Technology, and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 31, 2002